

succeed in the community. This organization builds relationships with financial institutions in the area. S.A.A.M.B.A. also sponsors training workshops, seminars or conferences like this one, educates and answers questions of African-American business owners and other people with similar interests. This organization's efforts to increase membership each year have been successful and its members look forward to many more years of building relationships and promoting business opportunities.

The first Civil Rights legislation was enacted in 1964, and the fight for equal treatment under the law continues today. Dr. Martin Luther King dreamed of a color-blind world, and organizations like S.A.A.M.B.A. are committed to supporting his ideal by helping African-Americans in business. They work to achieve equality for African-Americans, and are constantly changing attitudes in the business community. Our country has come a long way, but we have much work to do, and organizations like S.A.A.M.B.A. are paving the way for minorities in the business world.

Mr. Speaker, the Saginaw African-American Minority Business Association is a strong foundation for African-American adults, youth and the community. I urge you and our colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions to the community and congratulating the President, Corrine S. Williams and the dedicated staff of S.A.A.M.B.A. on their accomplishments this year.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN JAMES  
SPRAYBERRY, WINNER OF THE  
CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF  
HONOR

**HON. BOB BARR**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 1998*

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a great American hero: Captain James Sprayberry, born in LaGrange, Georgia. As a soldier in Vietnam, Captain James Sprayberry selflessly risked his own life to repeatedly charge enemy machine gun nests to rescue pinned-down American soldiers. In the process, he personally saved many of their lives, while killing twelve enemy soldiers, destroying two machine-guns, and eliminating numerous enemy bunkers. For this extraordinary bravery, Captain Sprayberry was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, our nation's highest military decoration. On October 26, 1998, a road in my district will officially be named after him.

In times of peace, it is far too easy to forget that freedom carries a high price. Captain Sprayberry was willing to pay that price. He deserves the undying gratitude of a grateful nation that enjoys peace today thanks to the sacrifices he and all of our other veterans have made over the years.

AGAINST HOUSE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION 254

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 1998*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to comment on House Concurrent Resolution 254 which passed the House on September 14, 1998. I inaccurately voted in favor of this bill when I should have voted "no."

The bill calls upon the Government of Cuba to expatriate to the United States Ms. Joanne Chesimard as well as all other individuals who have fled the U.S. from political persecution and received political asylum in Cuba.

I wish to officially go on record as opposed to this measure. Unfortunately, the bill was placed on the suspension calendar, which is usually reserved for non-controversial measures. Furthermore, none of the many advocacy groups that monitor this vote informed my office of their concern.

I oppose H. Con. Res. 254 because I support the right of all nations to grant political asylum to individuals fleeing political persecution. The United States grants political asylum to individuals from all over the world. Other independent nations have the same right, including Cuba.

I strongly believe that the right for various governments to grant political asylum should not be disturbed. I am aware of the fact that this body often does not agree with the particular decisions made by other independent governments regarding political asylum. However, I have stood before this house many times defending and advocating for the rights of immigrants and refugees in the United States. Just as we maintain our right as a nation to welcome those from other shores, whether immigrant or refugee—we must respect the Cuban Government's right to grant political asylum for individuals from the U.S. fleeing political persecution.

TRIBUTE TO MEREDITH BIXBY

**HON. NICK SMITH**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 1998*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Meredith Bixby from Saline, Michigan.

On October 18, 1998, the Saline Culture and Commerce Center will open the Bixby Marionette Exhibit. This exhibit includes over 100 of Meredith Bixby's hand-crafted marionettes which he gave to the City of Saline.

Meredith Bixby is affectionately known as the "Master of Marionettes." His company "Meredith Marionettes Touring Company" toured the Midwest and South for more than 40 years, performing in schools, theaters and community centers.

I personally admire Meredith Bixby because his stated goal was, "to present programs that we [that is Meredith and his wife Thyra] thought were in good taste." This is an element so often missing in theater productions of today.

I want to commend Meredith Bixby for his hard work and dedication. It is estimated that

in 88 years, he has performed more than 20,000 marionette plays.

A TRIBUTE TO RICHARD CHERRY

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 1998*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Richard Cherry, a member of the American Legion in my district. Dick is being feted by his comrades and friends at a special Appreciation Dinner to be held on November 14, 1998 at the Adams Township Post No 553 of the American Legion. I will be proud and humbled to participate in this well-deserved recognition.

Dick Cherry currently serves as National Committeeman for the more than 164,000 members of the Ohio American Legion. In his 29 years with the Legion, he has also served as Commander of the Department of Ohio, First Vice and Second Vice Commander of the Department of Ohio, Commander of the Great First District of Ohio, Commander of Lucas County, Commander of the Adams township Post, and Delegate to Lucas County, the First District, Department of Ohio, and National Organization. He also diligently labors on countless committees on the County, District, Department of Ohio, and National levels.

A member of the United States Army, Dick is a veteran of the Korean War who served with the Second Division, 23 Infantry Battalion. With the deepest of understanding of the importance of remembering our nation's veterans, he is an active member of the Toledo Soldiers Memorial Association, and the Lucas County Veterans Service Commission, and the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Association.

Listing his involvement in civic and veteran organizations only gives one a glimpse of the man. Dick Cherry is a man of the greatest compassion and empathy, with a sharp mind and a deep soul. He has been a trusted advisor to me on veterans issues, offering wise counsel regarding health care in our nation's VA medical centers, compensation and pension benefits for veterans and their families, and the "veterans position" on national issues. In any forum, he conducts himself with dignity and grace, quietly but effectively conveying the message that we must never forget our veterans, their courage, or the sacrifices they made to bring us the freedom we know today.

If a measure of a man is the esteem in which others hold him, then Dick Cherry is a man beyond measure. I join his wife Carol, his family, friends, and colleagues in paying homage to a most down-to-earth yet most remarkable man.

IN HONOR OF THE SESQUICENTEN-  
NIAL OF FLOYD SPRINGS  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LO-  
CATED IN FLOYD COUNTY, GEOR-  
GIA

**HON. BOB BARR**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 1998*

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Floyd Springs United Methodist Church of Floyd County, Georgia which